

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIM

1. (canceled)
2. (previously presented): An apparatus for baling a standing tree comprising:
a base;
a first annular frame being fixed to said base and defining a central area,
said first frame having a passageway portion which can be opened to allow passage of the tree trunk into the central area and then can be closed so that the first frame encircles the tree trunk;
a second annular frame concentrically rotatably mounted below and on said first frame, said second frame having a permanent arcuate opening wide enough to allow the tree trunk to pass therethrough into the central area;
a string dispenser fixed to said second frame;
a first motor engaging and driving said second frame and string dispenser around the central area and around the tree received therein; and,
means on said base for connecting said apparatus to an elevatable support.
3. (previously presented): The apparatus recited in claim 2, wherein said first frame first contacts the radiating arms of the tree and folds the arms upwardly and inwardly when the apparatus encircles the base of the tree trunk and traverses vertically upwardly to the top of the tree.
4. (previously presented): The apparatus recited in claim 3, wherein the dispenser does not dispense string onto a branch until the branch has been folded to at least the diameter of said first frame.

5. (previously presented): The apparatus recited in claim 2, wherein the first frame includes a third annular frame fixed above and to said first frame.

6. (previously presented): The apparatus recited in claim 5, wherein said third frame has a permanent arcuate opening that is wide enough to allow the tree trunk to pass therethrough into the central area, and has a diameter greater than the diameter of said first frame.

7. (previously presented): The apparatus recited in claim 6, wherein said third and first frames successively contact the radiating arms of the tree and fold the arms upwardly and inwardly when the apparatus encircles the base of the tree trunk and traverses vertically upwardly to the top of the tree.

8. (currently amended): The apparatus recited in claim 7, wherein the dispenser does not dispense string onto a branch until the branch has been folded to the tree such that the diameter of the tree and branch together are within to at least the diameter of said first frame.

9. (previously presented): The apparatus recited in claim 2, wherein said passageway portion comprises at least one retractable arcuate section that moves between an open position and a closed position.

10. (previously presented): The apparatus recited in claim 9, wherein said passageway portion comprises a pair of retractable arcuate sections that move between an open position and a closed position.

11. (previously presented): The apparatus recited in claim 10, wherein said arcuate sections are pivotably connected to the first frame.

12. (previously presented): The apparatus recited in claim 2, wherein said connecting means is located on the back of said apparatus, and said passageway and said arcuate opening are located on the front of said apparatus diametrically-opposite said connecting means.

13. (previously presented): The apparatus recited in claim 12, wherein the angular extent of said passageway and said arcuate opening are about equal and overlapping.

14. (previously presented): The apparatus recited in claim 7, wherein said first motor is mounted on said first frame and underneath said third frame.

15. (currently amended): The apparatus recited in claim 14, including a an additional second motor engaging and driving said second frame and string dispenser around the central area and around the tree received therein, said additional second motor mounted underneath said third frame and on said first frame at an angular distance from said first motor that is greater than the angular extent of the arcuate opening of said second frame.

16. (currently amended): An apparatus for baling a standing tree comprising:
a base;

a first annular frame being fixed to said base and defining a central area, said first frame having a front passageway portion which can be opened to allow passage of the tree trunk into the central area laterally and then closed to encircle the tree trunk;

a second annular frame concentrically rotatably mounted below and on said first frame, said second frame having ~~an~~ a permanent arcuate opening wide enough to allow the tree trunk to pass therethrough into the central area;

a string dispenser fixed to said second frame;

a first motor connected to said first frame, said first motor engaging and driving said second frame and string dispenser around the central area underneath the first frame and around the tree received therein;

a third annular frame concentrically fixed above and to said first annular frame, said third frame having an arcuate opening that is wide enough to allow the tree trunk to pass therethrough into the central area, said third frame having a diameter greater than the diameter of said first frame; and,

means on said base for connecting said apparatus to an elevatable support.

17. (previously presented): The apparatus recited in claim 16, wherein said first and third frames contact the radiating arms of the tree and fold the arms upwardly and inwardly when the apparatus encircles the base of the tree trunk and traverses vertically upwardly to the top of the tree.

18. (currently amended): The apparatus recited in claim 17, wherein the dispenser does not dispense string onto a branch until the branch has been folded to the tree such that the diameter of the tree and branch together are within to at least the diameter of said first frame.

19. (previously presented): The apparatus recited in claim 18, wherein said passageway portion comprises at least one retractable arcuate section that moves

between an open position and a closed position.

20. (previously presented): The apparatus recited in claim 19, wherein said connecting means is located on the back of said apparatus, and said passageway and said arcuate openings are diametrically-oppositely located on the front of said apparatus.

21. (currently amended): The apparatus recited in claim 20, wherein ~~the~~ an angular extent of said passageway and said arcuate openings are about equal **and** overlapping.

22. (currently amended): The apparatus recited in claim 16, including a an additional second motor engaging and driving said second frame and string dispenser around the central area and around the tree received therein, said additional second motor mounted underneath said third frame and on said first frame at an angular distance from said first motor that is greater than the angular extent of the arcuate opening of said second frame.